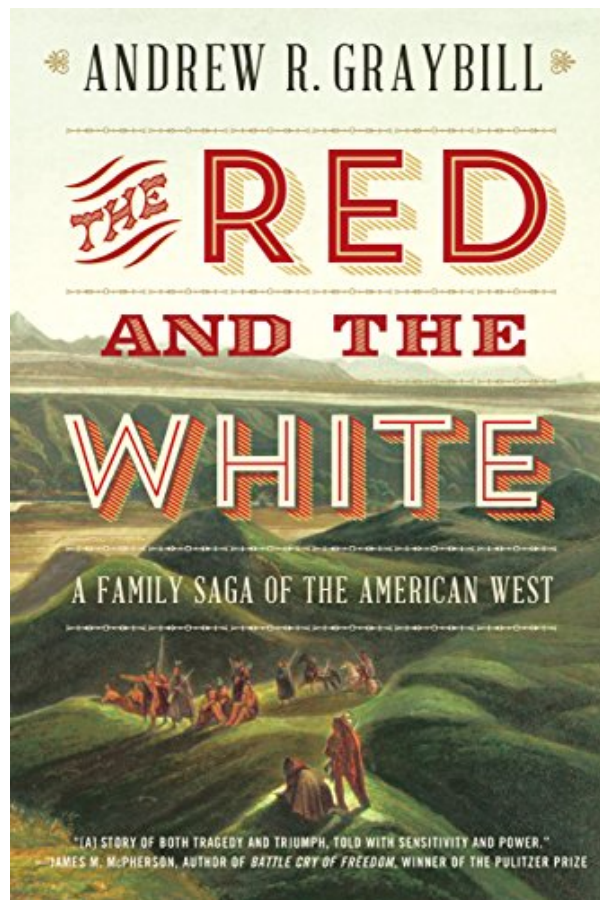
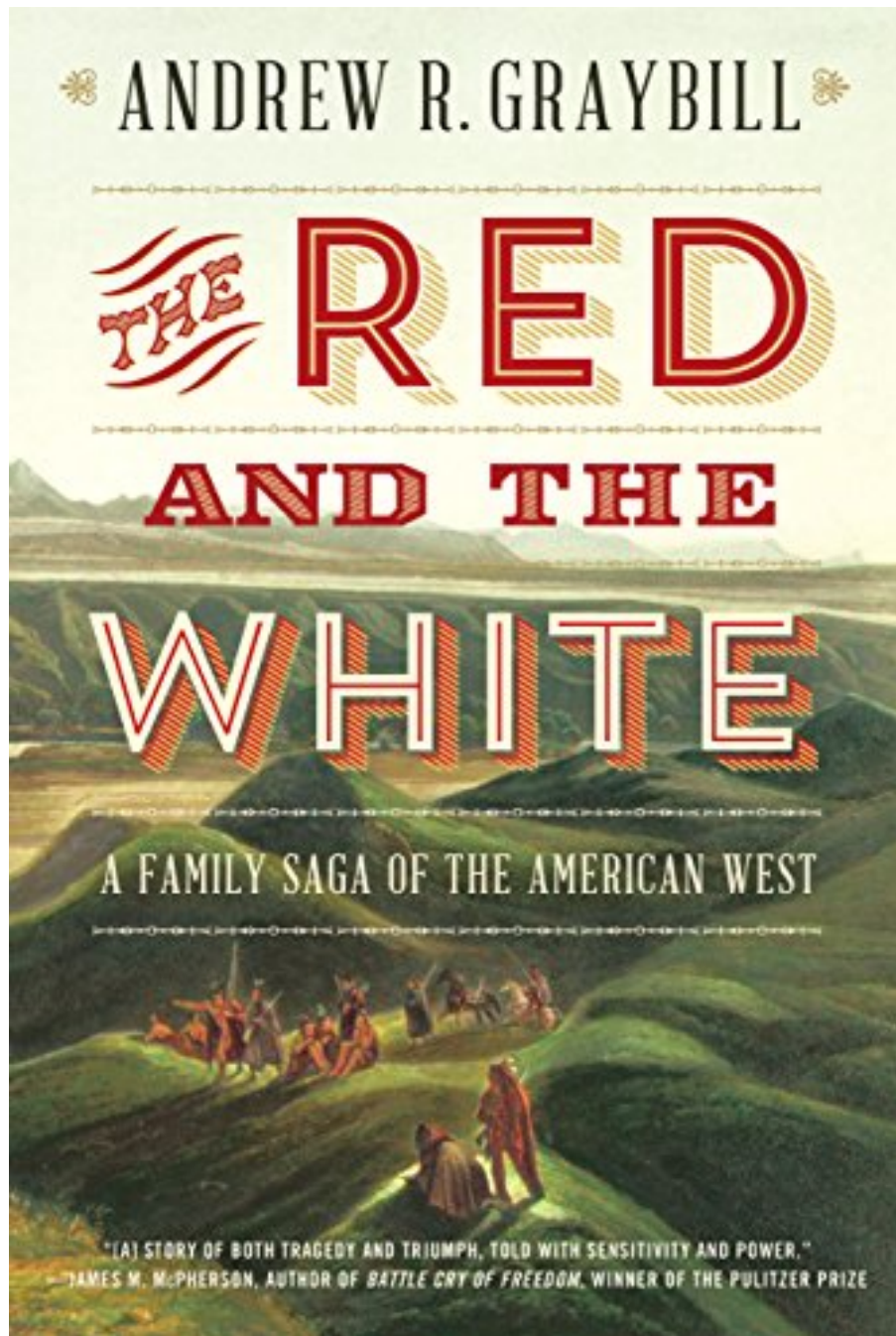


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SAGA OF THE AMERICAN WEST BY  
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### Review

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As an account, Graybill's book could not be bettered... *The Red and the White*—complete with a Clarke family tree, maps, extensive notes, an up-to-date bibliography and a helpful index—constitutes an engrossing

and important contribution to our understanding of the very mixed and complex past of the American West.  
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#### About the Author

Andrew R. Graybill is the director of the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies and chairman of the History Department at Southern Methodist University. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

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One of the American West's bloodiest—and least-known—massacres is searingly re-created in this generation-spanning history of native-white intermarriage.

At dawn on January 23, 1870, four hundred men of the Second U.S. Cavalry attacked and butchered a Piegan camp near the Marias River in Montana in one of the worst slaughters of Indians by American military forces in U.S. history. Coming to avenge the murder of their father—a former fur-trader named Malcolm Clarke who had been killed four months earlier by their Piegan mother's cousin—Clarke's own two sons joined the cavalry in a slaughter of many of their own relatives. In this groundbreaking work of American history, Andrew R. Graybill places the Marias Massacre within a larger, three-generation saga of the Clarke family, particularly illuminating the complex history of native-white intermarriage in the American Northwest.

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- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

The Powerful Blackfeet's Challenge with White Assimilation and Violence told Through the Clarke Family  
By Daniel Hurley

Excellent Description of Early Relations between the Blackfeet and white Traders and the challenges their off spring had in integrating in white society and a description of the Marias Massacre that was revenge for the actions of not only a few but a completely different band. The author utilizes the Malcolm Clarke family as the framework for this story of the virtual destruction of the Blackfeet due to white migration, disease (small pox), encroaching treaties, the Dawes act that forces allotment and missionaries that well meaning or not take their children to schools that attempts to negate their heritage. The book is virtually two parts, first about the early pioneer Malcolm, expelled from West Point for his violent temper, goes up the Missouri to become an accomplished trader and marries into the Blackfeet and unlike many other mountain men or traders stays with his family and raises his children to late suffer a violent death resulting in the massacre. The second half of the book focuses on two of his off spring, Horace who was present at the massacre and Helen who had a stage and later a challenging career in the bureau of Indian Affairs and their nephew John Clarke who was a remarkable artist. The descendants live on a fine line between native and whites and tend to lean closer to their native roots exemplifying the challenge of integrating into white society that became more elitist as the demographics of the population changed. This focus on the Blackfeet exemplifies the change in a powerful culture that today only a small minority of the tribe is considered pure blood but still struggles economically. Inclusive in all this is a tragedy and an indictment of the military action not only led poorly and wrong but an attempt was made to justify this lesser known massacre.

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Unforgettable tale of star-crossed lives and events.

By jim watson

This book is historical writing at its best. A tale of a family of the American West, a Blackfoot mother and a West Point-drop out father, whose lives astound us as they helped shape the military, political, even cultural and artistic history of our nation. Beginning with chance encounters with the 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition in present day Montana, and ranging to the Texas Revolution in 1837, ongoing intrigues in Washington DC, Shakespeare in the theatre district of 1913 New York, and the Rockefeller family in Glacier National Park, this intricately researched, gracefully written work engages its readers in an unforgettable tale of star crossed lives and events.

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